

CALIFORNIA

RURAL COUNTIES TASK FORCE

GEORGE DONDERO, CHAIR
CALAVERAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
(209) 754-2094 gdondero@calacog.org

GERRY LE FRANCOIS, SECRETARY
MONO COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
(760) 942-1800 glefrancois@mono.ca.gov

KATHRYN MATHEWS, VICE CHAIR
EL DORADO CO. TRANS. COMMISSION
(530) 642-5260 kmathews@innercrite.com

*Note Change in
Location!*

AGENDA

MARCH 21, 2003
12:30 pm

SACOG Board Room
3000 S Street, Room 200, Sacramento, CA

12:30	A	Self Introductions	
12:35	B	Approve minutes of Jan. 17	all
12:40	C	TEA Reform proposal	P. Hathaway, S. Maller
12:55	D	Legislative update – transit – CalACT	L. Wilcox
1:05	E	Annual RCTF-CalACT conference planning	P. Spaulding
1:15	F	Transportation Lobby Day	S. West
1:30	G	Project Charters – workshop - Caltrans	K. Herritt, S. Choate S. Clifton
2:00		BREAK	
2:15	H	State budget, STIP allocations STIP Guidelines issues	D. Brewer
2:45	I	RTP Update process – problems and recommendations	S. Scherzinger G. Hopkins
3:00	J	Legislative update	C. McAdam
3:05	K	LAMPP – Local Agency Manual for Processing Projects	G. Dondero
3:15	L	RCTF Issues and Objectives	G. Dondero
3 :30	M	Other	
3 :45		Adjourn	

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AGENDA NOTES FOR MARCH 21, 2003

- C. **TEA Reform Proposals.** Stephen Maller of CTC staff and Pete Hathaway of SACOG will discuss the latest version of the Commission's draft proposal for reforming the TEA program.
- D. **Lee Wilcox from CalACT** will discuss current legislation effecting rural transit operations. If you have any specific bills of interest, please bring that information and your questions to add to the discussion.
- E. **Annual RCTF-CalACT conference.** **Pete Spaulding**, Executive Director of CalACT will lead discussion on preliminary planning activities for our fall conference in conjunction with CalACT. This year the joint conference will be held October 26-29 at Squaw Valley. The Task Force will need 2 or 3 volunteers to help coordinate planning of the conference. Our primary responsibility will be planning Task Force sessions and coordinating a schedule with Pete. Bring your ideas for building a bigger and better conference in 2003.
- F. **Transportation Lobby Day – Sara West**, for the Self-Help Counties Coalition, will introduce the group's next effort to focus on building support for local sales tax measures.
- G. **Project Charters Workshop.** Project Charters were introduced last year by Caltrans Programming as a means to improve project development. A Charter is an informal MOU between all the Project Development Team members, intended to clarify definition of the project, expectations and responsibilities of individual team members and give focus to the PDT process. **Kevin Herritt** will lead a presentation on the basis of project charters and how to implement them. **Shirley Choate** from District 2 will present a perspective on use of charters. **Spencer Clifton** of Humboldt will provide the local agency perspective.
- H. **State Budget and STIP Allocations.** At the March 12th CTC special meeting, a prioritized list of STIP and SHOPP projects were discussed and new projections for cashflow from Caltrans were introduced. Conclusions from that meeting and expectations for the Commission's actions at their April 3rd meeting will be addressed. **David Brewer** of CTC staff will lead the discussion (see attached report)
- I. **RTP Update Process.** **Sharon Scherzinger** and **Garth Hopkins** of Caltrans will lead a discussion on successes and problems during the last Regional Transportation Plan update. They have been asked to evaluate the process for the Commission and provide recommendations to make improvements on the next round of RTP updates. In 1999, the Task Force led extensive workshops to assist local agencies in updating their RTPs. Please bring your experience and suggestions for this lively discussion.

- J. **Legislative Update.** **Celia McAdam** will not be present at the meeting, however she will submit a written report on ACA7, a constitutional amendment to lower the required voter threshold to 55% to pass a local sales tax. **Mary Pitto**, our contact from RCRC will also be present to address your questions. (see also item F)
- K. **Local Agency Manual for Processing Projects.** A presentation was made to the Task Force on this project, funded by Amador County Transportation Commission and Calaveras COG. The manual is designed to assist local agencies to expedite federally funded projects. It is a condensation of the steps included in the Local Assistance Manual designed specifically for the local agency and Public Works Departments. CDs are now available for those interested in trying this new tool. No cost is involved for rural agencies.
- L. **RCTF Issues and Objectives.** It's time for our yearly evaluation of standing issues and objectives. What items would you like to see specifically addressed in the coming year?

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TO: Task Force Members

From: George Dondero

Date: March 12, 2003

RE: CTC Special Meeting, March 12, 2003
STIP Allocations

Summary Report

1. Caltrans Finance Dept. projects that for the current year and budget year 2003-04, there is \$1.6 Billion available to program in the STIP.
2. CTC staff has proposed a Funding Allocation Plan, which groups projects by different criteria. Projects in the Plan include only those already submitted for a funding allocation this year. The list includes \$579 M in STIP projects, and \$623 M in SHOPP.
3. CTC staff recommended that \$600 M be allocated before June 30, 2003.
4. \$400 M would go to SHOPP projects, and \$200 M would go to STIP projects.
5. The \$200 M will cover the first two Priority groups (mitigation for projects already allocated (\$4.4 M), and projects at risk of losing other funding if not allocated, (\$1.4 M) and less than half of the third Priority group: Capacity Projects ready for construction (\$449M).
6. CTC staff will issue a list of projects recommended for funding allocation at the April Commission meetin, by Wednesday, March 19. This will be a large effort, since many judgement calls will clearly have to be made. It was not made clear how CTC staff will refine or expand the existing allocation criteria.
7. RTPAs will then have a brief period in which to provide additional information they feel is relevant to their projects, to propose swapping projects where desired, and to discuss with CTC staff their responses to the list. RTPAs should first contact the CTC staffperson assigned as their county liaison. If unsure of who your liaison is, check the CTC website or call them. If that discussion does not bring satisfaction, then you may wish to talk to David Brewer or Stephen Maller. I would suggest that you not wait until the April 3rd Commission meeting to make your case for a project – there is likely to be a long line, and I sense the

commissioners will not want to question staff recommendations often, if at all.

8. The Commission indicated that projects not allocated this year (ie: on April 3) will stay on the “pending” list, and continue to hold a priority for the 2003-04 allocations. The Commission may modify the criteria or the approach to selecting projects for allocation at that time. It is not clear how the projects programmed for the current year will compete with those programmed next year.
9. Both the RTPA moderator and the Rural Counties Task Force chair emphasized the need to continue receiving Planning, Programming and Monitoring (PPM) funds to continue our work in delivering projects. This point was repeated several times at both the February and the March meetings.
10. About \$900 M in federal funds have been earmarked for projects “ready to go”. When that money is available (from the current year budget recently passed), it will likely be used to ease some the pressure on the STIP.
11. The Commission will delay issue of the 2004 STIP Fund Estimate to October.
12. The PTA Account “needs more work” and its own allocation plan, to be revisited at a later date.

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
STREETS & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE
MARCH 12, 2003
MEETING SUMMARY**

1. 2004 Fund Estimate: Methodology and Schedule
 - Wide gap between Administration proposal for TEA-21 reauthorization and Congress
 - Over \$2 B in funding at stake in 03/04 State budget that is unlikely to be resolved soon
 - SB 2084 weight fee fix is expected this year that would mean over \$1 B in revenue over life of 2004 STIP
 - Action taken to recommend to CTC to receive Fund Estimate at Sept. 25 meeting and adopt at October 30 meeting
 - CTC staff mentioned the probable need to postpone the December RTIP deadline but no action was taken in that regard
2. Ten-Year SHOPP Plan and 2004 Funding Options
 - PowerPoint presentation was given by Caltrans
 - \$22 B in total needs were identified
 - Focus is on 6 SHOPP programs: Collision Reduction/Safety, Bridge Preservation, Roadway Preservation, Roadside Preservation, Mobility, & Transportation Facilities
3. Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) Program Reform
 - Stephen Maller discussed recommendation to re-enter program into the STIP
 - There has been no further development of plan since last meeting
 - More discussion needed between staff and Regions
 - Maller recommended putting off consideration until May meeting
 - Pete Hathaway provided history, including reasons why TEA was taken out of STIP, and noting that delivery is improving
 - Phil Dow asked that the Committee put off decision until May CTC meeting
 - Committee will recommend that CTC consider action at May meeting
 - After meeting, Dow, Yale, Steinhauser, and Hathaway arranged meeting for April 2 in Sacramento to further explore TEA/STIP concept
4. 2004 STIP Guidelines Issues
 - David Brewer handed out and discussed as single page of issues for the STIP in 2003
 - 2004 STIP will add 1 year of a 4-year share period and 1 year of a new 4-year share period

- SB 1768 permits Caltrans to nominate RTIP projects. Should guidelines be amended to reflect this?
- Should guidelines address long term fundability prior to approval of the STIP?
- Should incentives for land use planning be considered?
- How to convey funding restrictions available yearly without being overly restrictive
- How to deal with delays due to delivery or funding availability
- Other issues: See 1 page sheet

5. Policy for Allocation of environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEM) Projects

- Either I was asleep, talking about the TEA reforms, this item was not addressed, or it was so short I missed it

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Dow
3/14/03

RCTF ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES
Report for March 21, 2003

Issue/Objective

Rural Transit (FTA 5310, Welfare to Work, CalACT)	Pam Couch, Modoc
CalCOG Activities TEA Advisory Committee	Phil Dow, Lake & Mendocino
City/County/Caltrans/FHWA Coordinating Group and Local Assistance "Enhanced Training Committee"	Spencer Clifton, Humboldt
Federal Aid Project Streamlining TEA-3 Federal Reauthorization Transportation for Economic Development Committee	Celia McAdam, Placer
Quality Assurance Oversight Committee	C. McAdam, G. Dondero